

## REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 23, 2007. Claims 1-17 remain in this application. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11 and 13-16 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 18-47 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Claims 1, 8 and 13 are independent. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,317,116 B1 (Rosenberg et al.), and Claims 7, 12 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Rosenberg*.

As explained in the specification, The present invention is concerned with improving the ability of a user of a network to combine functions of two or more devices that are connected to the network in order to achieve a function that is not present in any one device. For example, if there is no copying machine on the network, it is desired to enable the user to make a copy of a document by using the functions of a scanner and of a printer that are present. In particular, the aspects of the present invention set out in the independent claims are directed to helping to ensure that the user will have adequate information available about the functions of the various devices on the network to make effective use thereof.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a data processing apparatus capable of data communications with various devices connected with a network. The claimed apparatus comprises storing means for storing function information and connection

information of the various devices. Also provided are system displaying means, for displaying a system configuration of the network on a display unit by using an icon corresponding to each of the devices, in accordance with the connection information stored by the storing means. Designation means serve to designate the plural icons from among the icons displayed on the display unit, and function setting screen displaying means are used to display a setting screen for setting a combination function achievable by combining the devices respectively corresponding to the icons designated by the designation means, in accordance with the function information stored by the storing means. Also, control means control the devices respectively corresponding to the icons designated by the designation means, on the basis of the combination function set by using the screen displayed by the function setting screen displaying means.

By virtue of this structure, an apparatus according to Claim 1 can be connected to plural devices through a network, and can perform control to achieve execution of a combination function by combining certain of the devices selected from among the connected plural devices.

*Rosenberg* relates to a system in which, if a user operates a mechanical apparatus 13, it is possible to operate icons displayed on a display device 20 of a host computer 18. The host computer 18 is not connected to plural devices through a network. Moreover, *Rosenberg* does not control to execute a combination function by combining the plural devices selected from among the plural devices. Of course, the display device 20 of the host computer 18 in *Rosenberg* does not disclose a system configuration of the network, does not also displays a setting screen for setting a combination function achievable by combining the devices respectively corresponding to the icons designated

from among the display of the system configuration, and does not control the devices based on the set combination function.

Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 1 is allowable over *Rosenberg*.

Independent Claims 8 and 13 are method and computer-medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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